THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Out of the nine Public Sector Undertakings under this Department, only three undertakings, namely, Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI), Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) and Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) incurred losses of Rs. 128.60 crores, Rs. 72.70 crores and Rs. 5.35 crores, respectively, during 1985-86. The other undertakings earned profit during the year. The losses of the Fertiliser Corporation of India were due to unforeseen accidents in the Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher plants. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporations' plants suffered loss of production because of equipment and power problems. As regards Madras Fertilizer Limited, this Company has been constantly earning profits prior to 1984-85. However, during 1985-86 there was production shortfall due to equipment problems, problems of contract labour and high inventory cost because of low off-take of fertilizers due to adverse weather conditions.

(c) and (d) The performance of the Public Sector Undertakings is reviewed in the Planning Commission from time to time, as in the case of other sectors of the economy. This Department has been advised to identify the reasons for the poor performance of the Public Sector Undertakings, especially FCI and HFC, and to take suitable corrective measures to improve the productivity and financial performance of these units. This Department also reviews the performance of the undertakings regularly and corrective measures, where necessary, are undertaken.

As regards FCI and HFC, schemes have been drawn up to revamp/modernise these plants, whereby the productivity of these Companies is expected to increase significantly. These are under consideration of the Government. The MFL has since overcome the difficulties it faced earlier and is likely to earn profit during the current year.

Pact on bio-fertilizers with UNDP and FAO

601. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pact on bio-fertilizers has been signed between India, UNDP and FAO; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The project on Development and Demonstration of Bio-fertilizers was approved by UNDP on 30-6-1986. The components of the project include short-term services of consultants, training and study tour abroad of local experts regarding production, maintenance, storage, quality control and distribution of bio-fertilizers, and supply of equipment. This will have a UNDP input of US $772,000 and the executing agency will be FAO.

Pest and disease control centres in Madhya Pradesh

602. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pests and disease control centres opened in Madhya Pradesh during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the number of pests and disease control centres proposed to be set up in Madhya Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and